

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4864

1. Name

Historic 517 - 529 South Port Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 517 - 529 South Port Street
city, town Baltimore
state & zip code Maryland 21231 county

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	X occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
X building(s)	X private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	X private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	X yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name
street & number telephone
city, town state & zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
town state & zip code

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7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check One

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check One

☒ original site
☐ moved: _____
date of move: _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This row of seven two-bay-wide, two-story early-Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs have all been covered with formstone or aluminum siding, so that no original details remain visible. In many cases, alley houses such as these are still occupied by working class families and many are still covered with the formstone put on in the 1950s or 1960s.

The houses are two stories in height, 10' wide, and occupy lots 57' deep. Each house is only two rooms deep. The shed roof probably had simple Italianate-style cornice with a crown molding supported by simple modillions, but all of the cornices were removed when the houses were covered with formstone. The houses are probably constructed in common bond. Chimneys are located at the rear end of the house.

The original door and window openings have been completely obscured by the formstone coverings, but probably had flat wood lintels and sills. All windows are filled with replacement 1/1 sash. No original doors survive and the row shows a mix of replacement door styles, all surmounted by a single light transom. The houses sit on low basements, lit by a narrow sash. The entrances are reached by one or two concrete or brick steps.

The houses are basically two rooms deep, with the front room being entered directly from the front door. The stairs are set in the middle of the house, between the front and back rooms.

8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

Specific dates c. 1872

Builder/Architect

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This group of early-Italianate-style houses were built in the early 1870s, just a few years after the more old-fashioned row of gable-roofed houses across the street. They are significant in that they represent the level of architectural stylishness achieved by many builders of small street houses in the late nineteenth century, even though now all original details have been obscured by the formstone covering.

The houses were built according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period 1870 to 1910. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and northeast of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. Typically, in this period, main street houses might sell for \$1,200 to \$1,500; small street houses for \$700 - \$900.

The land originally on which these houses are built belonged to the Patterson family as part of their 18th century estate, which also included the land given by the family to the city for Patterson Park. In the 1870s and 1880s the Patterson heirs began developing this block by leasing parcels to various builders who constructed modestly-scaled and priced housing for the mainly German immigrant families who were settling near the port-related fledgling industries of Canton. Most of the houses sold to mainly German-American semi-skilled tradesmen and laborers employed in nearby factories, who received mortgages from a variety of local building and loans, many of them sponsored by the German community.

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9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

Name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

city, town Baltimore

date

telephone

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of property rights.

Return to:

DHCP/DHCD

Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

Crownsville MD 21032-2023

B-4864

517-529 S. Port St.

3ALTO. MD

AVE.

AVE.

MONTFORD

45 MILTON

CANTON

ALICEANNA ST.

ST.

FOSTER

FAIT

AVE.

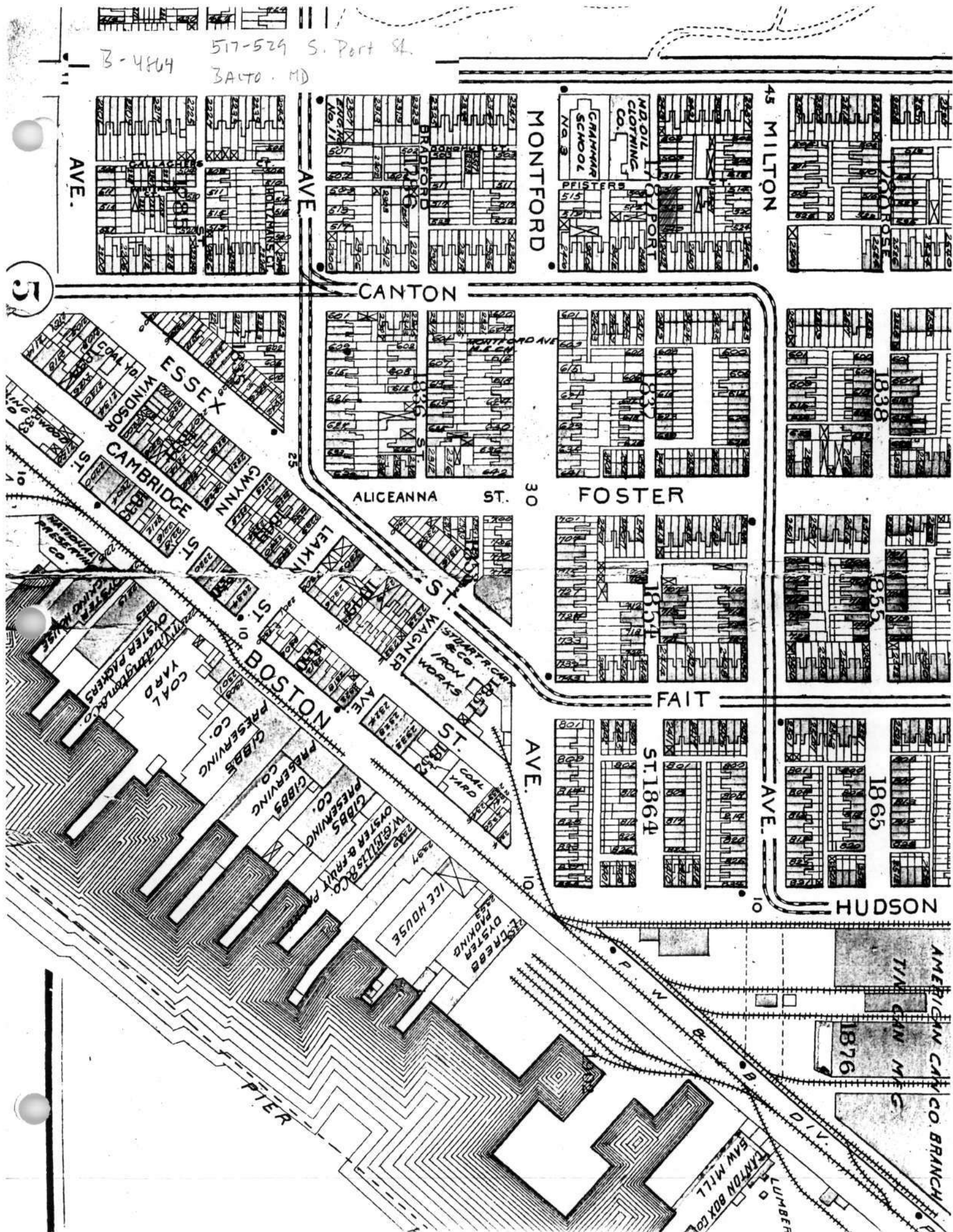
AVE.

HUDSON

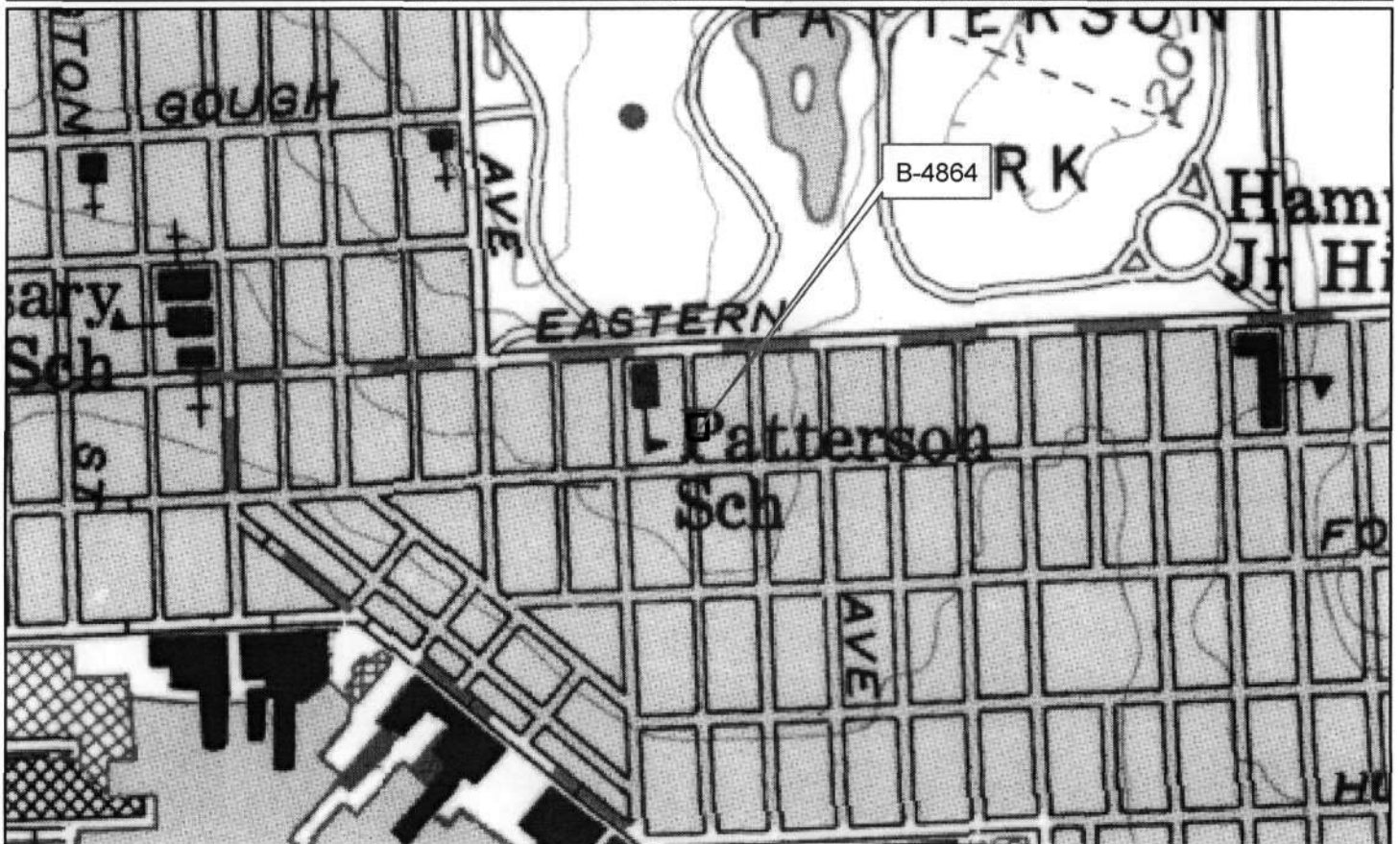
PIER

CANTON BOX CO.
SAW MILL
LUMBER

AMERICAN CAN. CO. BRANCH
TIN CAN MFG.
1876



B-4864
517-529 S. Port Street
Block 1787 Lots 054-064
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





517-529

ST 2

FD 12

B-4864

517-529 - PD + SF.

BALTO. MD

C. Beynon

12/97

100

105336

1/1